MARVEL

4

LORE
DARBOE
PETER

BLOODLINE

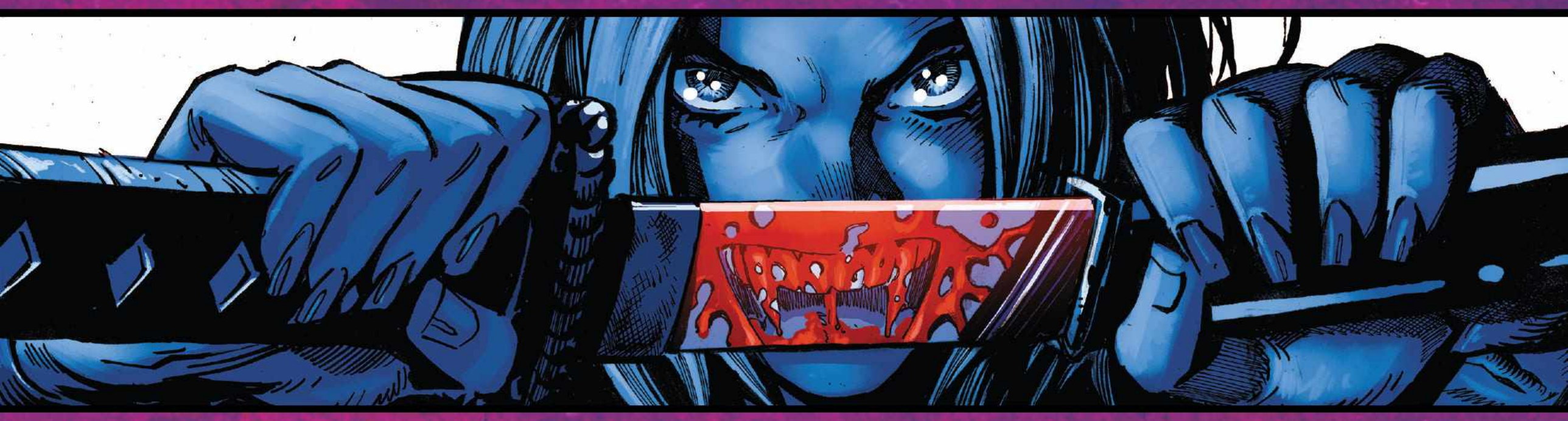
DAUGHTER OF BLADE

DARDOE 22

Brielle Brooks always tries to do the right thing (even though it always gets her in trouble). And since discovering that her father is Blade, the legendary half-human, half-vampire monster hunter—and inheriting his superhuman strength, reflexes and senses—the stakes have gotten much higher for...

BLOODLINE

DAUGHTER OF BLADE



Blade showed up just in time to save Brielle from being trapped in a nest of vampires by the new girl in school, Whitney. Seeing Brielle's determination to use her powers for good, Blade began to train (and finally get to know!) his daughter. But during one training session, Bri's mom returned home to find an unwelcome guest—Blade's evil vampire progenitor, Deacon Frost!

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"...THIS IS FOR ME?"

WE'VE BEEN TRAINING HARD, YOU EARNED SOMETHING NICE.

THIS IS *AWESOME*. PERFECT!

AND IT'S PRACTICAL.

ARE THESE...*STAKE* POCKETS?

"EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOURSELF...

"...AND PROTECT OTHERS."

PLASMA CAPSULES.

A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE SYRINGES I CARRY. YOU TAKE THAT THE SECOND BLOODLUST STARTS CREEPING UP ON YOU, AND IT'LL HELP YOU HOLD ON TO YOUR HUMANITY.

CAN I HUG YOU? THIS FEELS LIKE A HUGGING MOMENT.

. . .

...LET'S GET YOU IN THE HOUSE BEFORE YOUR MOM STARTS WORRYING.

OKAY.

. . .

MOM?

MOM?

WAIT.

BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE PLACE IS TRASHED, AND MOM ISN'T--

THAT'S *WHY* YOU NEED TO WAIT.

BE *READY*.

!!!

NO, NO, NO, MOM... IT'S HER PURSE...

I CAN'T FIND HER *PHONE*, MAYBE SHE HAS IT...

PICK UP, PICK UP, COME ON, ANSWER...

YOU'VE REACHED SAFRON CAULDER, BUT I'M NOT AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW...

MOM calling...

WHEN I FIND THE BLOODSUCKERS THAT DID THIS--

--THEY'RE *DEAD*.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S VAMPIRES? WHY WOULD THEY TAKE MY MOM?

SMELLS LIKE VAMPIRES. EVEN IF IT DIDN'T, IT'D BE *TOO COINCIDENTAL* FOR IT TO HAVE BEEN HUMAN ASSAILANTS.

AND THEY LIKELY *KIDNAPPED* HER.

IF THEY'D *KILLED* HER, THEY'D HAVE LEFT HER HERE AS A MESSAGE.

SO THEY'RE EITHER STUPID ENOUGH TO PLAY GAMES... OR THIS IS RELATED TO THE NEW PLAYER THAT HAD ALL THOSE OTHER VAMPIRES SCARED TO SNITCH...

...AND WHAT DO I DO?

--WHAT?

THEY TOOK MY MOM. HOW DO I HELP? CAN I HELP?

DO I GO WITH YOU WHILE YOU LOOK FOR HER?

OR AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST *WAIT* HERE...

...ALONE?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE LEFT ALONE. I'M NOT LETTING THAT HAPPEN.

BUT IF THESE WHISPERS ARE TRUE, YOU'RE NOT ***READY***. AND I'M NOT RISKING YOU TOO.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO ÷***SNIFFLE***÷ ***WAIT*** ÷***SNIFFLE***÷ TO FIND MY MOM, I--

I CAN PUT FEELERS OUT AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE TONIGHT.

CAN YOU CALL ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL? DON'T TELL THEM ANYTHING EXCEPT YOUR MOM'S UNDER THE WEATHER.

I--I...THINK SO. BUT WHAT IF IT'S MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO? WHAT IF THE SCHOOL ASKS ABOUT HER? WHAT IF I ***NEED HER--?***

WE'RE GONNA GET HER BACK LONG BEFORE ANY OF THAT IS A PROBLEM.

I PROMISE.

BRI?

LET ME GUESS--YOU'RE COUNTING THE HOURS TO OUR SLEEPOVER?

HUH? NO, I...

THAT WAS A JOKE, BRI.

ARE YOU ***SURE*** YOUR MOM'S JUST SICK? YOU'VE BEEN SUPER DISTRACTED ALL DAY...

MORE THAN TODAY, TBH.

Y-YEAH, I JUST DON'T WANNA GET SICK WITH ALL THESE CLASS PROJECTS COMING UP.

LOOK, I GET IT! BIG SCARY EXAMS ***AND*** NONE OF YOUR MOM'S COMFORT COOKING?

MY BAKING MAY NOT COMPARE, BUT YOU ***KNOW*** I'VE GOT YOU ON THE COMFORT FRONT.

REBECCA, YOU... THANK YOU...

MAYBE BEING DISTRACTED WILL FINALLY GET YOU TO SHUT UP IN CLASS.

WHITNEY.

FOR A NEW KID, YOU'RE AN ***OLD PRO*** AT RUINING THE MOMENT, AREN'T YOU?

WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH AN *ISSUE* WITH ME?

I DON'T LIKE FAKE TRYHARDS. AND *EVERYTHING* ABOUT YOU IS A LIE. DO *THEY* KNOW?

FAKE TRY-- SAY THAT AGAIN TO MY--

I'M *DONE* WITH YOU, WHITNEY.

YOU DON'T LIKE ME? FINE. *BE* WRONG ABOUT ME *AND* MY FRIENDS.

BUT YOU'VE GOT THE CHOICE TO JUST *LEAVE ME ALONE* OR ACTUALLY *LISTEN* TO A WORD I SAY. GO FIND YOURSELF SOME BUSINESS AND GO *AWAY*.

OH, I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHO YOU ARE.

YOU. YOUR FRIENDS. AND THAT *MOM* YOU'RE SO SCARED OF.

SCARED OF?

YOU KEEP MY MOM OUT OF YOUR MOUTH! WHY WOULD YOU EVEN--?

YOU SHOULD REALLY WATCH YOUR TEMPER.

DON'T WANT *ANY* OF YOU TO GET IN TROUBLE.

...I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, GUYS.

HEY, BRIELLE, WATCH OUT!

SORRY!

WHY WOULD WHITNEY BRING UP MY MOM LIKE THAT?

...UNLESS...

calling... MOM

YOU'VE REACHED SAFRON--

YOU!

WHAT DID Y'ALL *DO* TO MY MOTHER?!

TCH.

CAN'T HELP BEING A ***VIOLENT MONSTER*** IN PUBLIC, *HUH*, BRIELLE?

I'D TELL YOU TO LEARN HOW TO BEHAVE--

SLAM

UGHHH!

--BUT I DON'T THINK SOMEONE LIKE YOU ***CAN***.

KRK

YOU KNOW WHAT I ***CAN*** DO THOUGH?

CLENCH

BAM

SO HIS SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH IN THE DAYTIME, DO YOU?

JUST A POWERLESS FREAK WHEN THE SUN'S--

WHAT DID YOU *DO?*

BRIELLE BROOKS!

WHAT ON *EARTH* ARE YOU DOING?!

YEAH...*BRI*... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SUSPENDED? BUT WHITNEY--

MISS BROOKS, STOP. THERE ARE *NO* WORDS OR ACTIONS THAT JUSTIFY YOUR BEHAVIOR TOWARD MISS NIEVES.

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME!

BUT *I* HAVE, AND YOU HAVEN'T *EXPLAINED WHY* YOU'RE TREATING ME LIKE THIS! IT'S NOT FAIR!

WE GOT THE MESSAGE THAT YOUR MOTHER IS SICK, AND YOUR...FATHER... APPARENTLY HAS BEEN ADDED TO YOUR CONTACTS. ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT ANSWERING OUR CALLS.

I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED HAVING THIS MEETING WITH YOUR *MOTHER*, WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN--

WHY ARE YOU SAYING "YOUR *FATHER*" LIKE THAT?

ASK WHITNEY--

MISS BROOKS, PLEASE. HELLO, THIS IS MS. BREARD CALLING FROM McGREGOR?

YES. I PRESUME THIS IS ABOUT THE YOUNG WOMAN THAT ASSAULTED WHITNEY?

I'M SORRY FOR THIS PHONE CALL, MR. FROST. I'M AWARE HOW UPSETTING--

YES, IT'S QUITE TROUBLING...

...FROST?

YOU'VE HEARD OF MY FOSTER FATHER?

IT'S QUITE TELLING WHEN A VIOLENT CHILD'S GUARDIANS ARE SO...

"...VERY *OCCUPIED.*"

...BLADE...

...IT'S TIME WE TALK.

FATHER TO FATHER.

YOU'RE *NOT* DEACON FROST.

OH, I ASSURE YOU, I VERY MUCH AM.

YOU DON'T SMELL LIKE--*AH*. ONE OF HIS MANY *CLONES*.

GOING AFTER A MOM AND HER KID FELT A LITTLE...BEEN THERE, DONE THAT FOR THE *REAL* DEACON.

ALL OFFENSE INTENDED.

FEEL FREE TO THINK WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME, DAYWALKER.

BUT IN ALL THE WAYS THAT MATTER...I AM *VERY* REAL.

AWNGGGG

THUNK

AND SINCE I'VE MET PART OF YOUR FAMILY, IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT YOU MEET SOME OF *MINE*.

VAMPIRE *AND* HUMAN ALIKE.

SHE *KNEW* I COULDN'T PROVE SHE HAD MY MOM'S PHONE.

OR RISK WHATEVER HER *"DAD"* OR *"MENTOR"* WOULD DO TO MY MOM IF...

MAY I GO TO THE BATHROOM?

FIVE MINUTES TOPS.

I KNOW, I KNOW.

BUT IF I CAN CONTACT MY DAD, I CAN--

OH NO.

COPS?!

THEY'RE SERIOUSLY CALLING *COPS* OVER A SCHOOL FIGHT? THEY *NEVER* CALL IN THE POLICE, *OH* MY GOD...

DID WHITNEY AND HER DAD ASK TO *PRESS CHARGES?*

IF THEY GO TO MY HOUSE, WITH THE WAY FROST'S PEOPLE LEFT IT...*OH NO.*

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO SIT AROUND HERE AND LET THEM TREAT ME LIKE A MONSTER *OR* A CRIMINAL.

NOT WHEN I KNOW THE TRUTH.

BRIELLE!

JAY! REBECCA! *OH* GOD, FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT IT WAS THOSE POLICE OFFICERS WHO--

YOU GOING TO ACTUALLY ***EXPLAIN*** WHAT'S HAPPENING YET?

I'VE ***NEVER*** SEEN YOU GO OFF LIKE THAT IN MY LIFE. SO I ***KNOW*** SOMETHING'S UP WITH THE NEW GIRL.

AND THE STUFF WITH YOU BEING DISTRACTED? AND YOUR MOM AND DAD...?

WHAT REBECCA'S TRYNA SAY IS: WE CAN'T HAVE YOUR BACK IN THE DARK.

IN THE DARK? TALK ABOUT A CHOICE OF WORDS...

I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE ***NOW***, I CAN'T SIT AND EXPLAIN, BUT THINGS ARE REALLY BAD, AND IF I DON'T GO ***RIGHT NOW***, THEY'RE GOING TO THINK ME OR MY DAD DID SOMETHING THAT WE ***DIDN'T***, BUT I THINK--

BRI. WE GOTCHU.

YOU BETTER TELL US EVERYTHING, BUT FOR NOW?

POINT ME TO WHO MESSED WITH YOU, AND ***I'LL*** KNOCK 'EM OUT.

AAARGGH!!

FINALLY, OUR WORK IS ALMOST COMPLETE!

FAMILY, I PROMISED YOU THE POWER TO FIGHT YOUR ENEMIES--TO REACH YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL!

ALL OF OUR WORK AND RESEARCH HAS LED TO THIS RITUAL, TO THE BLOOD OF THE *DAYWALKER* AND HIS LINE...

AND WITH THE RITUAL COMPLETE, WE WAIT FOR THE BLOOD OF THE VERBOTEN TO...

RARGH!

NOTHING? NOTHING!

CLATTER CLATTER

...YOU AIN'T THE FIRST OR THE LAST TO THINK MY ***BLOOD'S*** GONNA DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YA...*UGH*... UNCREATIVE-ASS FROST CLONES.

NO, NO, THE RITUAL IS ***RIGHT***, IT'S ***YOU***--YOU WHO ARE--

...BET YOU NEED...A STOMACH PILL THOUGH...

SILENCE!

RAAAAAAAARGH!!!

MIGHT I REMIND YOU THAT MS. CAULDER OVER THERE IS FAR LESS HEARTY THAN YOU ARE, DAYWALKER?!

HE'S FOUGHT TOUGHER ***DEACON FROSTS*** THAN YOU.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE ***WINNING?***

YOU ***SAID*** YOUR RITUAL WOULD WORK ONCE YOU HAD DAYWALKER BLOOD.

MR. FROST, YOU ***TOLD*** US WE'D ALL DRINK THE POWER OF THE--

AND MY WORD IS STILL ***TRUTH***. ALL THE TOMES SAID THAT THE BRIDGE BETWEEN HUMANITY AND VAMPIRES WOULD BE THE MISSING KEY TO...PERHAPS THE BALANCE IS OFF.

BUT THERE IS SOMEONE FURTHER DOWN THE ***BLOODLINE*** WE CAN USE...

HEH. IDIOT.

YOU'RE AS &#$% AT PLAYING POPS TO THESE HUMANS AS THE ***REAL*** DEACON WAS...

...ALREADY ***FORGETTING*** HOW DUMB IT IS TO THREATEN SOMEONE'S BABY GIRL...

WHERE ***SHE*** CAN HEAR!

SAFRON, RUN!

GO TO OUR TRAINING SPOT!

STOP.

LET HER HAVE A HEAD START.

WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEIR SECRET MEETING PLACE IS...

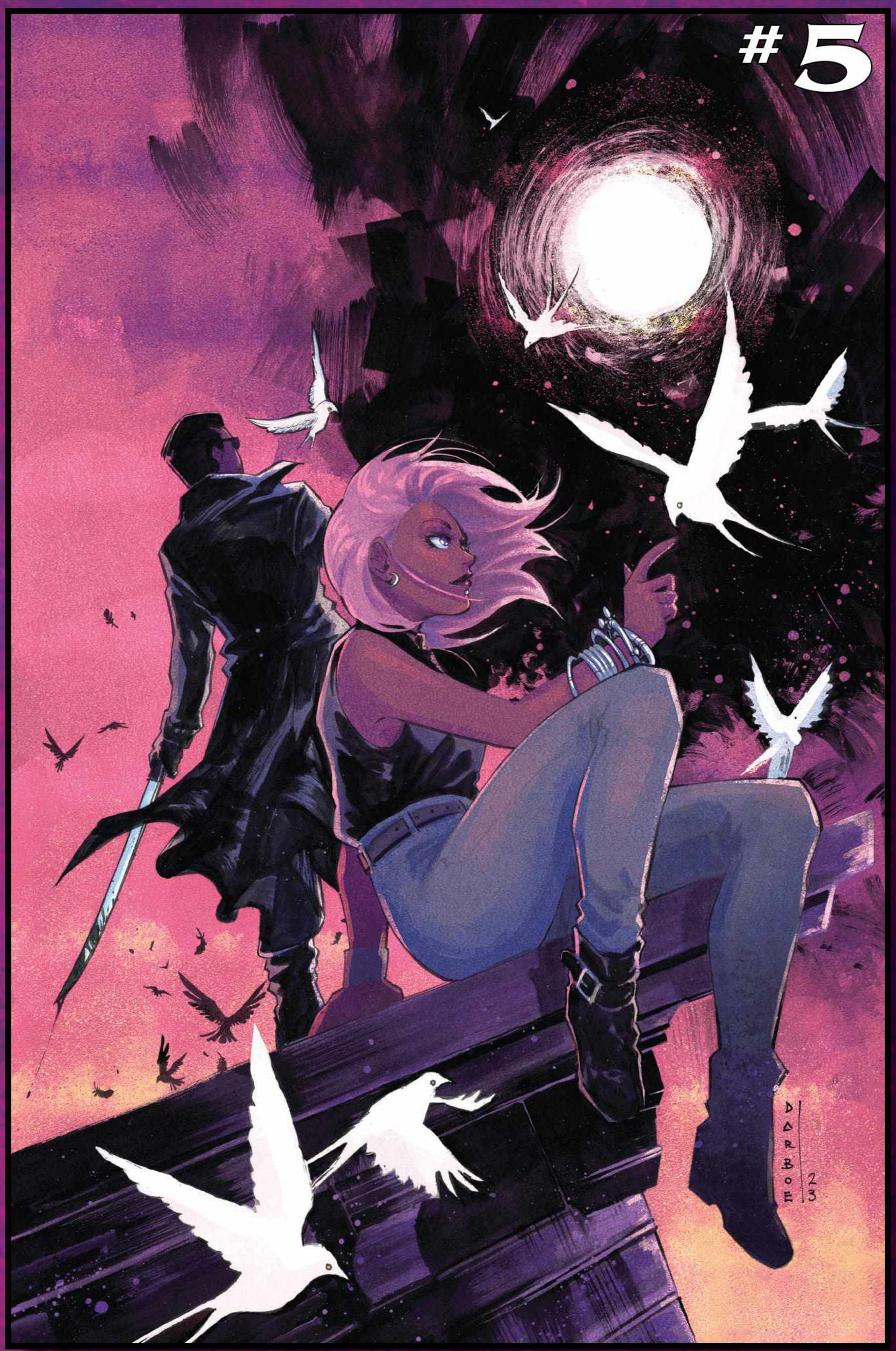
SO LET MOMMY FIND HER BABY...

"...AND EVENTUALLY...

"...SHE'LL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO OUR SACRIFICE!"

TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT:



Blade has been training Brielle to hunt vampires and control her Dhampir bloodlust, but now he and Safron have been entrapped by an ancient foe! Can Bri save them... before her family is ripped apart?

Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

ZONE